



NORTH CASCADES AND MT. BAKER VISITOR INFORMATION GUIDE



South of Fisher Basin
North Cascades National Park

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Welcome to National Park and National Forest lands in the North Cascades.

Located east of I-5, there are many opportunities for you to enjoy this area with relatively easy access by several major highways. Starting up north: take a drive on the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (State Route 542). This route starts in Bellingham, winds along the North Fork of the Nooksack River, and, from the town of Glacier, climbs 24 miles to an elevation of 5,100 feet at Artist Point in Heather Meadows. This destination is legendary for spectacular views of Mt. Baker, Mt. Shuksan and surrounding peaks.

For other stunning vistas, follow the northern part of the Cascade Loop along the North Cascades Scenic Highway (State Route 20). A side trip up the Baker Lake Road, 16 miles east of Sedro-Woolley, leads into the Baker Lake Basin, which hosts campgrounds, water recreation and numerous trails.

The 125-mile Skagit Wild and Scenic River System – made up of segments of the Skagit, Cascade, Sauk, and Suiattle Rivers – provides important wildlife habitat and recreation. The Skagit is home to one of the largest winter populations of bald eagles in the United States and provides spawning grounds for one-third of all salmon in Puget Sound.

The North Cascades Scenic Highway travels through the gateway communities of Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount before reaching Ross Lake National Recreation Area within North Cascades National Park Complex.

Along the way, visit the North Cascades Visitor Center near Newhalem and many viewpoints above Gorge, Diablo and Ross lakes, which offer pristine perspectives of surrounding peaks. These mountains are home to more than 300 glaciers in the park and over 600 in the ecosystem.

Further to the east, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area features the third deepest lake in the nation. Gaze into the clear waters of Lake Chelan as you boat to the remote community of Stehekin and the Golden West Visitor Center.

Enjoy your visit. Be safe and be prepared.



**NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK COMPLEX
MT. BAKER RANGER DISTRICT USFS**
810 STATE ROUTE 20
SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA 98284-1239



FIND MORE INFO AT:
www.nps.gov/noca
www.fs.usda.gov/mbs

Explore, Experience and Enjoy

HIKING TRAILS AND CLIMBING PEAKS

Hundreds of miles of trails lead into the North Cascades. Storm damage may affect your trip, so check trail conditions before you leave home. Most long hikes and climbs enter designated Wilderness Areas where special restrictions may apply. Climbers should choose experienced partners or licensed guides.

Visit the National Park and National Forest web sites for current recreation reports and climbing information.

BACKCOUNTRY National Forest:

Backcountry camping does not require a permit, but a Northwest Forest Pass is needed at many trailheads. Campers in the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area and some areas of the Wilderness must camp at designated sites. Campfires are not allowed in most backcountry areas and seasonal fire restrictions may apply.

National Park: Free permits are *required* for overnight stays in both backcountry camps and cross-country zones and are issued in person only on a first-come, first-served basis. There are more than 200 backcountry camping sites, from boat-in sites to high alpine backpacking sites. Backcountry camping is allowed only at established sites. Camps include pit toilets, tent pads and in some cases, tables and fire pits. Dispersed camping is permitted in cross-country zones most often used by climbers and mountaineers. For permit information, contact the Wilderness Information Center (360) 854-7245 or visit www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit.

DO I NEED A PASS?

North Cascades National Park Complex does not require an entrance fee or parking pass at trailheads. However, use of certain trailheads, picnic areas and recreation sites in the National Forest does require a federal recreation pass.

The Northwest Forest Pass is valid throughout all National Forests in Oregon and Washington. The Interagency Annual Pass, Interagency Senior, and Interagency Access Pass (formerly the Golden Age and Golden Access Passports) are also honored at Northwest Forest Pass sites. When in the area, passes can be obtained at ranger stations and some local vendors. You may also purchase the passes in advance by calling (800) 270-7504 or online at: www.naturenw.org.

Passes should be displayed from the rearview mirror or on the dashboard of your vehicle when parked at a Northwest Forest Pass site.

Day Pass	\$5
Annual Pass	\$30
Interagency Annual Pass	\$80 *
Interagency Senior Pass	\$10**
The Interagency Access Pass is free for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with medically-determined permanent disability.	
* Valid at U.S. Federal Recreation areas.	
** Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens and permanent residents 62 and over.	

GO FISHING Fishing in Washington, including in National Parks and Forests, requires a valid Washington State fishing license.

In the National Forest, Baker Lake is a popular destination for salmon and trout fishing. The Skagit River, one of Washington’s major rivers, is home to seven species of anadromous fish (all five species of Pacific salmon and two types of trout) and freshwater trout and char.

In the National Park, Diablo and Gorge Lakes have been stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout. Ross Lake offers quality sport fishing opening annually on July 1. Lake Chelan has freshwater cod, trout and kokanee, a land-locked species of salmon. The Stehekin River offers rainbow and cutthroat trout. Comply with special regulations listed in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Sport Fishing Regulations, available wherever licenses are sold and online at: wdfw.wa.gov

WATER RECREATION River floating is an excellent adventure to plan. Experienced boaters run the Skagit, Nooksack and Stehekin rivers. Ask for a list of local outfitters at any ranger station.

Kayaking, canoeing and motor boating are other options. No personal watercraft (jet skis, etc.) are allowed in North Cascades National Park Complex. Motorboat and paddling rentals are available at Baker Lake, Ross Lake and Lake Chelan. Boat ramps are located at Baker Lake, Gorge Lake, Diablo Lake, Lake Chelan and the north end of Ross Lake at Hozomeen.

HORSEBACK RIDING Stock animals are welcome on trails maintained to stock standards. Trail rules and seasons of use vary and special rules apply in Wilderness Areas.

- Stock parties are limited to 12 (people + animals) on trails.
- Grazing is permitted in the National Forest without a permit. But stock must use weed-free or processed feed while on National Forest lands.
- Grazing with a permit is allowed in the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. This can be obtained with your backcountry permit.
- Grazing is prohibited in the National Park; pack in processed food pellets.

TRAVELING WITH YOUR DOG Dogs are not permitted on trails or in cross-country areas within the National Park. Leashed dogs are allowed in Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas, along the Pacific Crest Trail, in car campgrounds and along roads in the National Park.

Dogs are allowed in the National Forest but must be leashed in developed recreation areas such as trailheads, campgrounds, picnic areas and Heather Meadows. For safety reasons, dogs are not allowed on Table Mountain Trail 681 in the Heather Meadows Area.

NORTH CASCADES BY BICYCLE Many people tour across the North Cascades by bicycle. Ask for the bulletin "Cycling the North Cascades Highway" at any ranger station. Mountain biking is usually not permitted on park or forest trails. Riding is allowed on roads. Visitors should check for use restrictions on the trail system before heading out on a mountain bike trip.

TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

- Make the most out of your adventure by taking special safety precautions.
- Children should remain with adults.
- Establish rules for keeping together.
- If separated, the child should hug a tree near an open area and stay put.
- Pick trails and adjust goals to children’s ages and abilities.
- Bring along the ten essentials.
- Have children help make an emergency kit and make sure they know how to use the items.
- Help children develop responsible outdoor practices.

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

Explore with ears and eyes. Play observation games—watch for birds and identify plants, bugs and animal tracks. Listen for sounds of wildlife. Draw a picture or write a poem to remember the trip.

Spend time with rangers. Ask for Junior Ranger and Family Fun activities and programs. Information is available at visitor centers and ranger stations.



Top: NPS.
Bottom: Snyder



Travel Safely, Step Lightly

Many people come to the North Cascades to enjoy its rugged beauty and remote wildness. Recreating in natural areas, however, has inherent dangers and responsibilities. Conditions in mountainous areas can change very rapidly, even during a day trip. These travel tips can help you have a safe and responsible journey so that you, and future travelers, can enjoy the landscape to its fullest.

SAFETY TIPS

Use caution on access roads. Watch for obstructions such as rocks, sharp turns, parked vehicles and pedestrians.

Safeguard your possessions by keeping them out of sight. Lock your vehicle.

Carry the ten essentials listed on this page.

Stay on trails. Wear adequate footwear and use a topographic map and compass.

After hiking, **check yourself for ticks**, which may carry lyme disease.

Horses can startle easily. When stock approach, make your presence known and stand on the lower side of the trail.

Report trail damage to the nearest ranger station.

Do not depend on cell phones as there are many ‘dead spots.’

Always tell a friend your travel plans, including destination and expected return time.

Leave Fireworks at Home. Visitors are reminded that due to the potential fire danger, using or possessing fireworks of any kind is illegal on all federal and state-managed public lands in Washington throughout the year.

Check for avalanche danger. Before heading out into the backcountry, especially during the winter, check with the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center for current mountain weather and avalanche forecasts, online at www.nwac.us

Hunting on National Forest lands, Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas is governed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Game Regulations. Visitors should exercise caution when hiking during hunting season; wear bright clothing and make your presence known. Hunting is not allowed in North Cascades National Park.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the regulations and special concerns for the region you are visiting. Prepare for emergencies and hazards.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Stay on the trail and camp in designated spots. Avoid fragile areas along waterways and in alpine meadows.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Use established fire rings or pits; keep fires small. Put out fires completely and scatter ashes. Use a stove when possible.

Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Never feed animals.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Be courteous; yield to others. Strive to not disturb the natural ambiance.

Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in, pack it out. Use toilets where available. Otherwise, dig a cathole 6 to 8 inches deep away from trails and water.

Leave What you Find

Observe, but do not take. Leave all natural and historical objects as you find them.

WHERE CAN I CAMP?

Many public campgrounds in the North Cascades are accessible by car. Most sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Group camps in the National Park are located at Goodell and Newhalem Creek campgrounds. National Forest group sites are available in the Baker Lake and Mt. Baker Scenic Byway areas.

National Park and Forest campground reservations can be made online at www.recreation.gov or at (877) 444-6777. Group sites can be reserved a year in advance and family sites may be reserved six months ahead.

For information about camping and other lodging opportunities in Washington State Parks, call (888) 226-7688 or visit www.parks.wa.gov

LODGING There are a variety of lodging options. Local Chamber of Commerce offices are happy to assist you. Remote accommodations in the North Cascades include:

Ross Lake Resort (206) 386-4437
www.rosslakeresort.com

Stehekin Landing Resort www.stehekinlanding.com. Other lodging is available in Stehekin. Pick up the Stehekin Visitor Guide at any ranger station.

Learn about other tourism opportunities around the state at www.experiencewashington.com

CAMPING AREAS		Managed by	Accessible by User fee	Drinking facilities	Flush water	Vault toilets	Garbage facilities	Boat ramp	Hiking trail	Dump stations	Fishing	Number of Campsites * hook-ups available
Location												
SR 542	Silver Lake Park+	CP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100+*
	Douglas Fir+	FS	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	30
	Excelsior Group++	FS	●				●	●			●	2
	Silver Fir+	FS	●	●	●		●	●			●	21
Baker Lake Road Milepost 14-23	Kulshan	P	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	104
	Horseshoe Cove+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	34
	Bayview Group++	FS	●				●	●			●	2
	Panorama Point+	FS	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	16
	Boulder Creek+	FS	●				●	●				10
	Park Creek+	FS	●				●	●			●	12
	Swift Creek+	FS	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	55
	Shannon Creek+	FS	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	20
SR 20 Milepost 81-180	Rasar State Park+	SP	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	38*
	Steelhead Park+	CP	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	59*
	Goodell Creek	NP	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	21
	Newhalem Creek+	NP	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	110
	Newhalem Group++	NP	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	2
	Goodell Group++	NP	●				●	●			●	3
	Colonial Creek	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	142
	Lone Fir	FS	●	●	●		●	●		●		27
	Klipchuck	FS	●	●	●		●	●		●		46
	Early Winters	FS	●	●	●		●	●				13
Cascade River Road	Marble Creek+	FS	●	●			●	●			●	22
	Mineral Park+	FS	●				●	●			●	22
Via B.C.	Hozomeen	NP		●	●		●		●	●	●	122
FS = Forest Service CP = County Park SP = Washington State Park Campground: + Reservation available P = Puget Sound Energy ++ Reservation required NP = National Park Service												

THE 10 ESSENTIALS TO BRING ON EVERY TRIP:

- 1) Food and water
- 2) Clothing
- 3) Navigation/map
- 4) Light
- 5) Fire starter
- 6) Sun protection
- 7) First aid kit
- 8) Knife
- 9) Emergency signal
- 10) Emergency shelter

Visit the National Forest

BAKER LAKE

Nine-mile (14 km) long Baker Lake offers opportunities for camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking and pack & saddle trips. Washington State regulations govern boating and fishing at Baker Lake. Developed campgrounds are located along the western side of the lake. The Baker Lake Trail extends along the eastern shoreline, crossing the Baker River at the north end. For camping information see page 3.

MT. BAKER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The Mt. Baker National Recreation Area was established in 1984 outside wilderness legislation to allow for snowmobile use when snow levels are sufficient. During the summer, hiking trails lead from the end of Forest Road 13 and through the Mt. Baker Wilderness from the Middle Fork Nooksack river drainage to this impressive landscape.

Hikers can explore the trails, and stock is welcome August 1 to November 1. Winter recreation includes skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing.

To help prevent resource damage and protect sub-alpine vegetation, backcountry campers must stay at designated sites, and no campfires are allowed in this area. One-night-only campsites are established for hikers and stock parties at the trailhead at the end of Forest Road 13. Please ask for a detailed handout on campsites and area regulations at a ranger station.

NATIONAL FOREST CAMPING

Forest visitors may camp in dispersed undeveloped forest areas with a maximum stay of 14 days. Developed campgrounds are operated by forest concessionaire, Hoodoo Recreation, www.hoodoo.com, in the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, Baker Lake and Cascade River corridors. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis or by reservation at www.recreation.gov or (877) 444-6777.



FS

Mt. Baker National Recreation Area Trails

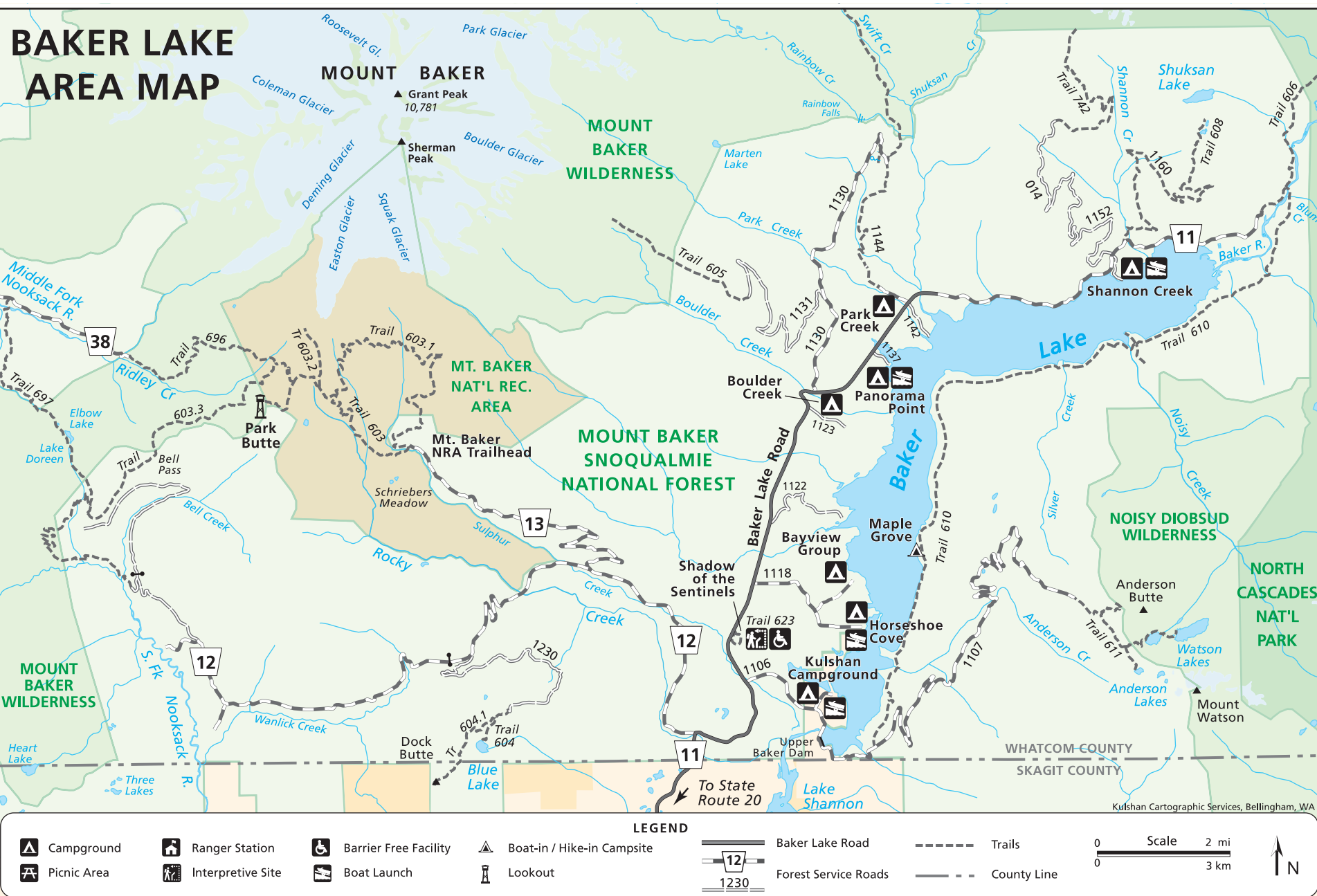
Trail #	Name	Access	Distance one-way miles	Remarks
603	Park Butte	Road 13	3.5 (5.6 km)	Enters Wilderness, designated camps, no fires, stock ok 8/1 to 11/1
603.1	Scott Paul	Road 13	6.5 (10.5 km)	No camping, hikers only
603.2	Railroad Grade	Trail 603	1.0 (1.6 km)	Designated camps, no fires, hikers only
603.3	Bell Pass	Road 12	5.0 (8.0 km)	Wilderness, stock allowed 8/1 to 11/1
696	Ridley Creek	Road 38	5.5 (8.9 km)	Not maintained, connects to trail 603.3
697	Elbow Lake	Road 12 Road 38	3.0 (4.8 km) 3.5 (5.6 km)	Wilderness, stock allowed 8/1 to 11/1

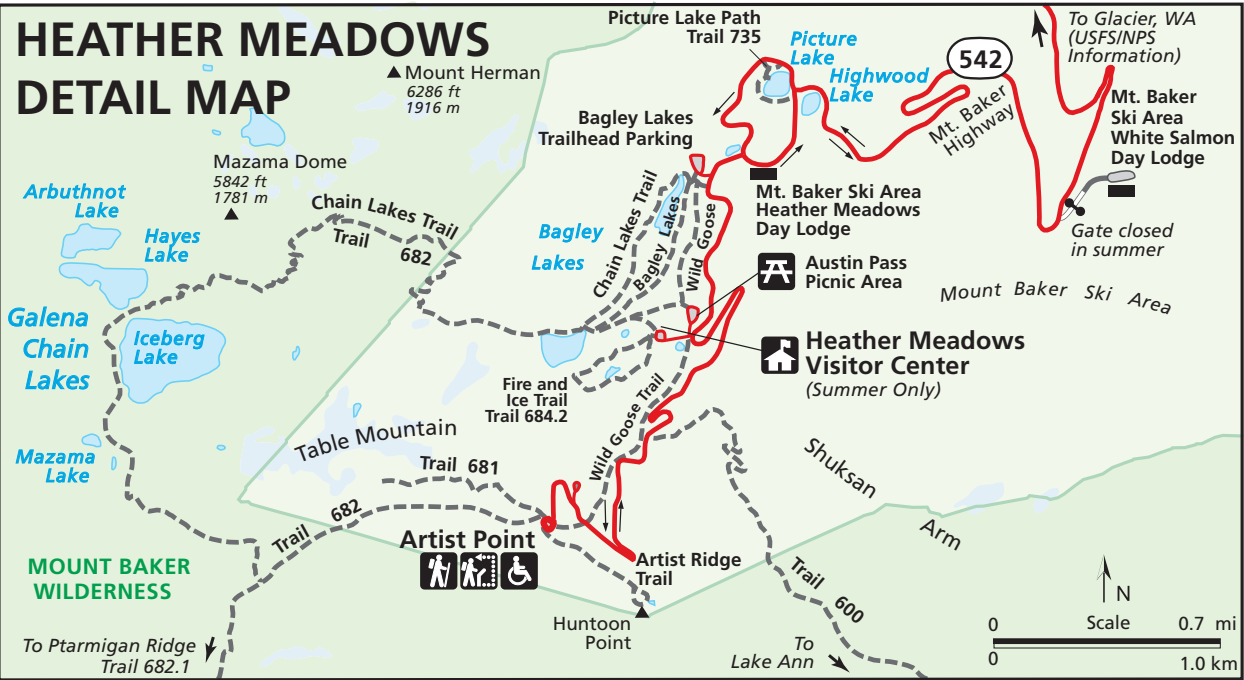
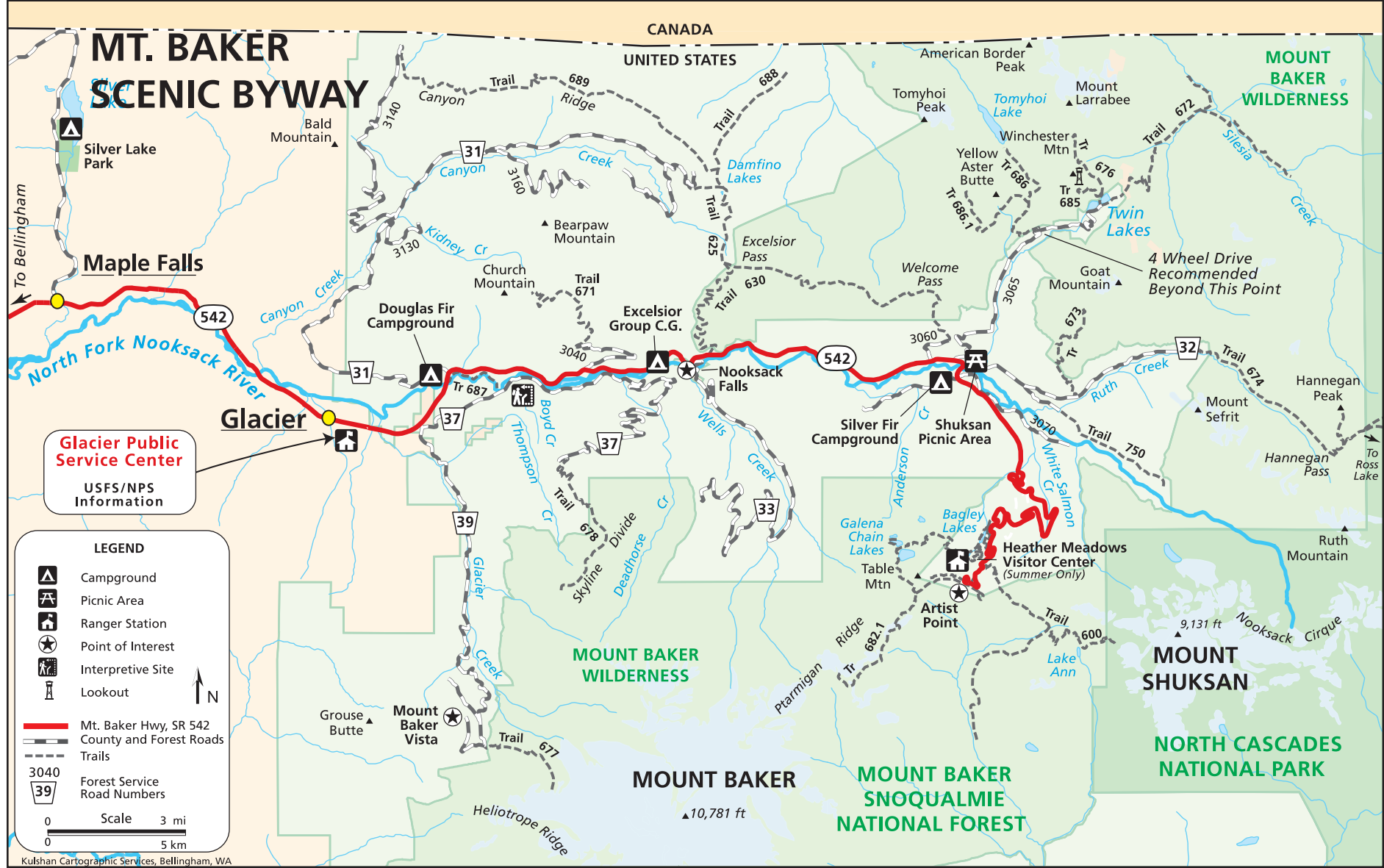
Baker Lake Area Trails

604.1	Dock Butte	Road 1230	1.5 (2.4 km)	Leads to a scenic vista
604	Blue Lake	Road 1230	0.7 (1.1 km)	Short forest hike to lake
606	Baker River	Road 11	2.6 (4.2 km)	Enters National Park
610	Baker Lake	Road 1107	14.0 (22.5 km)	Stock allowed year-round
611	Watson Lakes	Rd. 1107-022	2.3 (3.7 km)	Wilderness, no fires, designated camps
611.2	Anderson Lakes	Rd. 1107-022	2.4 (3.8 km)	Non-wilderness
623	Shadow of the Sentinels	Baker Lk. Road Road 11	0.5 (0.8 km)	Accessible, interpretive
742	Shannon Ridge	Rd. 1152	3.0 (4.8 km)	Climbing access to Mt. Shuksan, NPS backcountry permit required

A Federal Recreation Pass is required at posted sites and trailheads. Always check trail and road conditions at the Forest Service website or call a ranger station. Note: Discover Pass is not valid at National Forest sites.

BAKER LAKE AREA MAP





POPULAR TRAILS ALONG THE MT. BAKER SCENIC BYWAY				
Glacier Area Trails				
Trail #	Name	Access	Distance one-way miles	Remarks
625	Damfino Lakes	Road 31	3.0 (4.8 km)	No fires, connects with High Divide
630	High Divide	Hwy 542	13.0 (20.9 km)	Wilderness, no fires, stock 8/1 to 11/1
671	Church Mountain	Road 3040	4.2 (6.8 km)	Steep hike up forested slopes
677	Heliotrope Ridge	Road 39	3.7 (6.0 km)	Wilderness, no fires
678	Skyline Divide	Road 37	5.5 (8.9 km)	Wilderness, no fires, stock 8/1 to 11/1
687	Horseshoe Bend	Hwy 542	1.5 (2.4 km)	Follows Nooksack River
673	Goat Mountain	Road 32	4.0 (6.4 km)	Wilderness, stock allowed 8/1 to 11/1
674	Hannegan Pass	Road 32	5.0 (8.0 km)	Wilderness, no fires, enters National Park, stock allowed 7/1 to 11/1
685	Winchester Mtn.	Road 3065	2.0 (3.2 km)	High clearance vehicle needed on road, Wilderness, no fires
686	Tomyhoi Lake	Road 3065	4.0 (6.4 km)	Wilderness, no fires
686.1	Yellow Aster Butte	Trail 686	2.0 (3.2 km)	Wilderness, no fires, Jct 686 at 1.5 mi
626	Boyd Creek	Road 37	0.25 (0.4 km)	Accessible, Interpretive
Heather Meadows Area Trails				
600	Lake Ann	Hwy 542	4.8 (7.7 km)	Wilderness, no fires
682.1	Ptarmigan Ridge	Trail 682	5.0 (8.0 km)	Wilderness, no fires
681	Table Mountain	Hwy 542	0.7 (1.1 km)	Wilderness, no fires, no dogs
682	Chain Lakes	Hwy 542	6.5 loop	Wilderness, no fires, camp at designated sites only
735	Picture Lake	Hwy 542	0.5 loop	Accessible, Interpretive
684.2	Fire and Ice	Hwy 542	0.5 loop	Accessible, Interpretive
684.3	Wild Goose	Hwy 542	2.5 (4.0 km)	No camping one mile from trail
669	Artist Ridge	Hwy 542	1.0 loop	Accessible viewpoint
A Federal Recreation Pass is required at posted sites and trailheads. Always check trail and road conditions at the Forest Service website or call a ranger station. Note: Discover Pass is not valid at National Forest sites.				

MT. BAKER SCENIC BYWAY

The scenic Mt. Baker Byway winds along the North Fork of the Nooksack River, ending at Artist Point at 5,100 feet (1545 m) in Heather Meadows. The last 24 miles (39 km) is designated as a National Forest Scenic Byway. At the road’s end, trail systems lead into the Mt. Baker Wilderness. During winter months motor traffic ends at the Mt. Baker Ski Area three miles (6 km) below Artist Point.

POINTS OF INTEREST

GLACIER PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER - MP 34: Stop by to get current conditions from Forest Service and National Park staff.

Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail, FS Road 37: This short, self-guided nature trail focuses on components of healthy fish habitat.

Nooksack Falls, MP 40: A dramatic waterfall plummets more than 100 feet over rocky outcrops. A fence-lined pathway leads to a viewpoint.

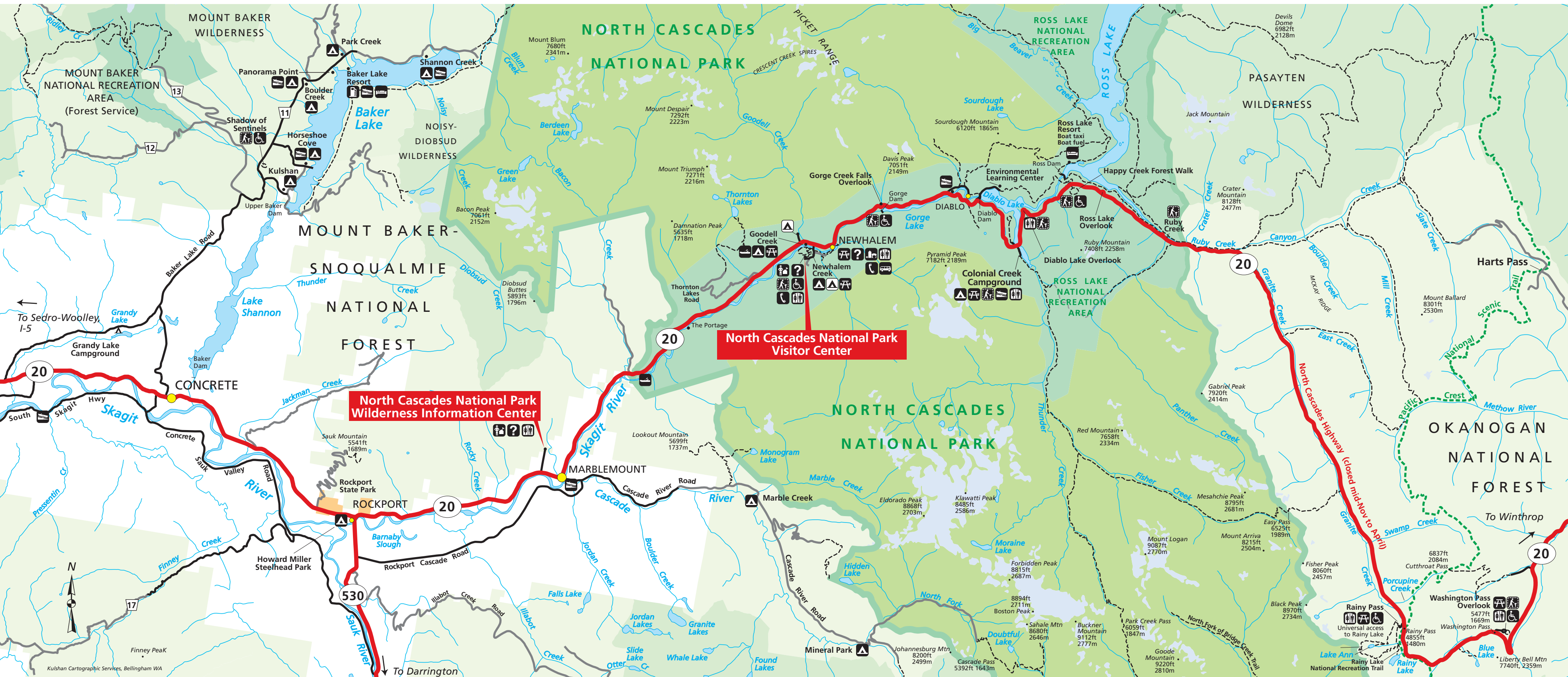
Shuksan Picnic Area: Day use area at the base of Forest Road 32 (Hannegan Road). Pass required.

HEATHER MEADOWS AREA

Visit this spectacular sub-alpine setting along the upper reaches of the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway. Spread out a picnic lunch at Austin Pass Picnic Area and check in with staff at the Heather Meadows Visitor Center. Open daily in summer from 10 am to 4 pm. A valid Federal Recreation Pass is required for parking in the area during the summer season.

Hike along a network of scenic trails and enjoy several self-guided interpretive opportunities and accessible viewpoints. Several longer hikes lead into the surrounding Mt. Baker Wilderness, where Wilderness regulations apply. When entering such areas, be prepared for risk and challenge. The terrain can be rugged and the weather unpredictable.

During winter months, check avalanche forecasts by calling at www.nwac.us



How far is it? How long will it take?

SEDRO-WOOLLEY TO NEWHALEM

	In Miles	In Minutes
Sedro-Woolley to Concrete	55	75
Concrete to Rockport	24	25
Rockport to Marblemount	8	10
Marblemount to Newhalem	8	15
	15	25

NEWHALEM TO WASHINGTON PASS

	44	65
Newhalem to Diablo Overlook	14	25
Diablo Overlook to Rainy Pass	26	35
Rainy Pass to Washington Pass	4	5

WASHINGTON PASS TO WINTHROP

	30	45
Washington Pass to Mazama	17	25
Mazama to Winthrop	13	20
TOTAL TRIP:	129	3 hrs

ACCESSIBLE INTERPRETIVE TRAILS

Shadow of the Sentinels: 0.5 miles (0.8 km) trail through old growth forest.

Sterling Munro: 330 ft (120 m) boardwalk with view of Picket Range.

River Loop: 1.8 miles (2.9 km) trail begins at North Cascades National Park Visitor Center or in Newhalem Creek Campground for easier grade.

Rock Shelter: 0.3 miles (0.6 km) trail to Native American campsite above Newhalem Creek, moderate grade.

Gorge Overlook: 0.5 miles (0.8 km) 0.2 miles paved with views of Gorge Lake and Gorge Dam.

Happy Creek Forest Walk: 0.3 miles (0.5 km) boardwalk through ancient creekside forest.

Rainy Lake: One mile (1.6 km) paved trail leads to Rainy Lake with views of waterfalls.

Washington Pass Overlook: 810 ft (250 m) loop trail with view of mountains from a high bluff.



FROM WEST TO EAST

BAKER LAKE AND MT. BAKER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At MP 82 on SR 20 turn north onto Baker Lake Road #11 for access to water recreation, hiking and campgrounds. After entering the National Forest, Roads #12 and #13 lead to the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area for winter sports and hiking on the south side of Mt. Baker.

ROCKPORT MP 96-98. Two parks, Rockport State Park and Howard Miller Steelhead Park, offer excellent day hikes near the Skagit River. State Route 530 goes south along the Sauk River, part of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System, and accesses roads to the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Forest Roads 1030 and 1036 provide access to the Sauk Mt. Trail.



MARBLEMOUNT MP 105-107. This is the last stop for full services and gas before Mazama and Winthrop. National Park backcountry permits are issued at the Wilderness Information Center one mile (1.6 km) north of SR 20 on Ranger Station Road. East of town, the Cascade River Road leads through the National Forest to campgrounds and the Cascade Pass Trailhead.

NEWHALEM MP 120. Across the Skagit River is the North Cascades National Park Visitor Center with several short trails including To Know a Tree, Rock Shelter and River Loop. Newhalem Creek and Goodell Creek Campgrounds offer tent, RV and group campsites. In town, Seattle City Light runs an Information and Tour Center with facilities, walking tours, trails including Trail of the Cedars and Ladder Creek Falls and a general store.

GORGE CREEK FALLS AND OVERLOOK MP 123. Rest stop and accessible loop trail offering views of the gorge and dam.



COLONIAL CREEK CAMPGROUND MP 130. Located on Diablo Lake, this campground has camp hosts and offers naturalist programs in the summer, an accessible picnic area and fishing platform. Thunder Creek, Thunder Woods and Thunder Knob trails leave from the campground and go through diverse forests to scenic views.

DIABLO LAKE OVERLOOK MP 132. Viewpoint has a variety of vistas, restrooms, a map, and shelter.

ROSS DAM TRAILHEAD MP 134. The Ross Dam, West Bank and Happy Panther trails are accessed from this area, as well as Ross Lake Resort. SR 20 winter gate closure late fall through late spring.

ROSS LAKE OVERLOOKS MP 135-136. View Ross Lake, mountains and displays about ancient glaciers, lakes and more recent fire lookouts. Walk the Happy Creek Forest accessible trail.



EAST BANK TRAILHEAD M.P. 138 Panther Creek, East Bank and Ruby Creek trails converge near here. A new option is to follow the Happy Panther Trail west from here to Ross Lake.

RAINY PASS PICNIC AREA M.P. 158 One-mile (1.6 km) accessible trail leads to Rainy Lake and waterfall views. Longer hikes go to Lake Ann (2 mi, 3.2 km) or around Maple Pass Loop (7.5 mi, 12 km). Typically not snow-free until late July.

WASHINGTON PASS M.P. 162 Highest point along the highway, enjoy views of Liberty Bell and Early Winters Spires.

UPPER METHOW VALLEY M.P. 180 Mazama turnoff to Hart's Pass (22 mi, 35.4 km). Road unpaved and usually not snow-free and passable until mid to late summer.

North Cascades National Park Complex



THE NORTH CASCADDES ARE CALLING

"The sublimity of true mountain scenery in the Cascade Mountains . . . must be seen, it cannot be described. Nowhere do the mountain masses and peaks present such a strange, fantastic, dauntless and startling outline as here. Whoever wishes to see nature in all its wildness must go and visit these mountain regions..."

– Henry Custer, United States Northwest Border Commission topographer, 1859

North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area together make up the North Cascades National Park Complex. Whether you enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, climbing or just taking a drive along a scenic highway, the park has something for you! On this and the following pages learn how to:

- Become a Junior Ranger
- Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks
- Drive the scenic North Cascades Highway and take the family for a hike
- Travel picturesque Lake Chelan aboard the Lady of the Lake to the unique community of Stehekin
- Be involved: volunteer

Take advantage of the many opportunities to learn, recreate and spend time with family in these special places that have been saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

DO YOUR PART! FOR CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS

With over 300 glaciers representing 1/3 of those remaining in the lower 48 states, the ecosystem and landscapes of North Cascades National Park Complex will experience unprecedented change in the future. Recognizing the drastic consequences of climate change, park staff is committed to reducing the park's contribution to greenhouse gasses, supporting climate science, research and adaptive management and leading public awareness and education. "Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks" is the first interactive online program in the country that provides national park visitors and supporters with the tools to understand and reduce their carbon footprints and thereby help protect our national parks from global warming.

LEARN MORE:

Climate Friendly Parks

www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks

Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks

www.DoYourPartParks.org

The EPA Climate Change Kids Site

www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids

U.S. Forest Service Climate Change Resource Center: www.fs.fed.us/ccrc

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER!

In 2009, North Cascades National Park launched a new Junior Ranger program that consists of four age-appropriate activity booklets. Each is designed to help get kids outside, have fun and learn about unique natural and cultural resources of your park. A "totem animal" guides kids through the activities and offers instruction, hints and ways to apply their new knowledge during their visit to the North Cascades.

Pick up a FREE booklet at any of the following locations:

- Glacier Public Service Center
- Park and Forest Information Center
- Hozomeen
- Wilderness Information Center
- North Cascades Visitor Center
- Golden West Visitor Center

In addition to the Junior Ranger program, North Cascades National Park also offers Family Fun Packs and hidden questing activities within the park. Learn more at any visitor center.



Explore our growing digital image library on Flickr:

www.flickr.com/northcascadesnationalpark

Be inspired by beautiful photographs and even submit your own!



Top: Werran, courtesy of REI. Bottom: Snyder

Ross Lake National Recreation Area

The North Cascades Highway, or State Route 20, meanders through the upper Skagit watershed among forests and soaring peaks. A variety of activities can be accessed from the corridor including challenging hikes and paddling. A number of scenic vistas, picnic areas, campgrounds and short trails are available for those seeking a more relaxing trip.

Below Newhalem, the free-flowing portion of the Skagit River offers excellent wildlife viewing and rafting opportunities. A raft launch is located next to Goodell Creek Campground, but careful planning is required to float the swift Skagit as there can be seasonal hazards and closures.

Diablo Lake offers the only easy access for launching watercraft off from State Route 20. The lake, surrounded by glaciated peaks, is a brilliant turquoise blue in summer. This unique color is caused by refracted light on fine rock sediment called glacial flour, carried into the lake by glacier-fed streams. There are three small boat-in campgrounds where a backcountry permit is required.

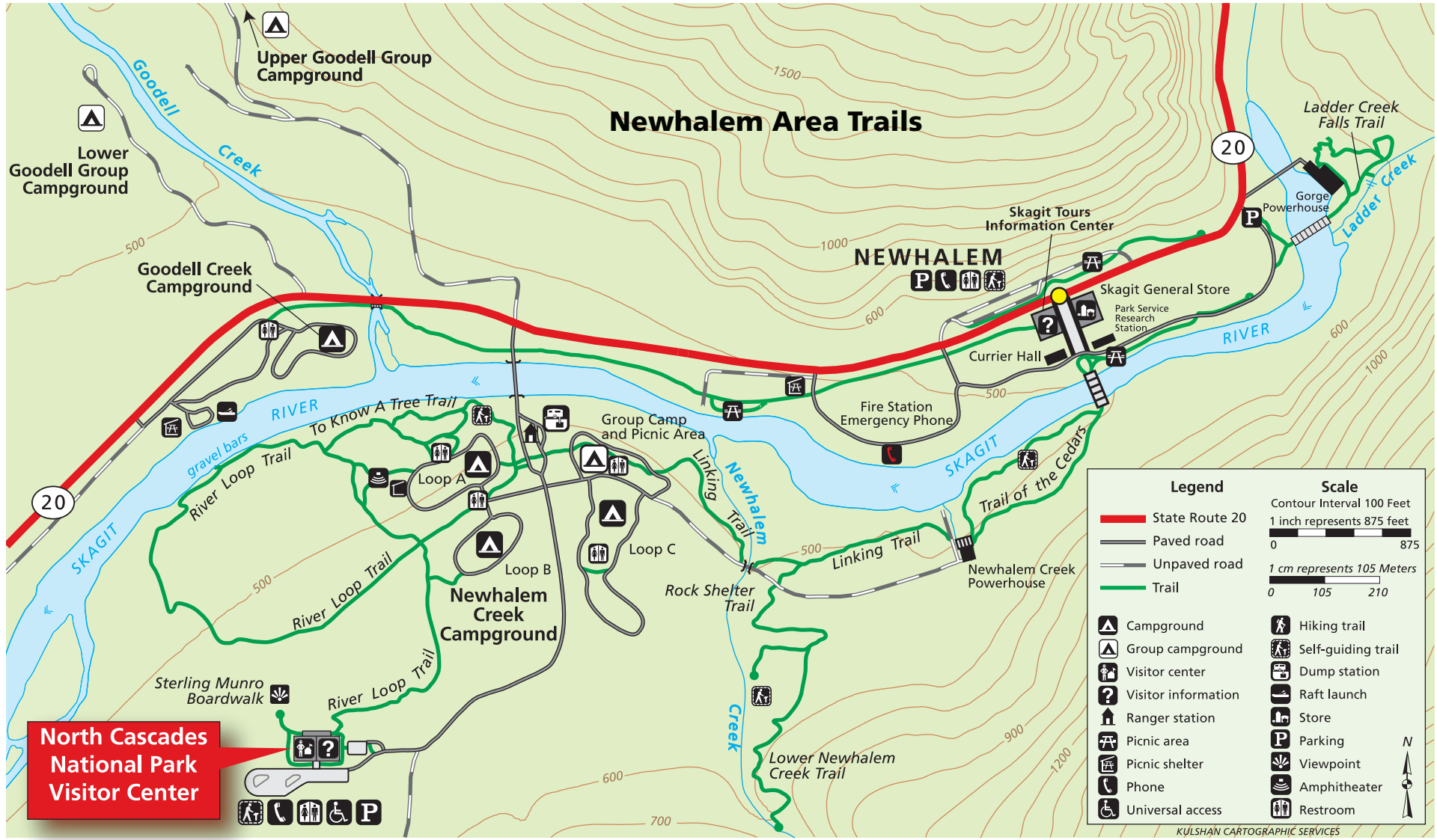
Ross Lake, the largest of the three reservoirs, winds nearly 25 miles from Ross Dam to Hozomeen on the Canadian border. The only vehicle access is via Hope, British Columbia, but small motor boats (14' and under) and canoes/kayaks can be portaged around Ross Dam from Diablo Lake. Nineteen boat-in campgrounds (backcountry permit required) and Ross Lake Resort are available for those looking to spend multiple days in this remote landscape.

NEWHALEM

The North Cascades were still remote and wild in the 1910s, when the power of the Skagit River was first being harnessed. Newhalem was built as a company town for the men who worked at the dams and their families. Learn about the area’s natural and cultural history by exploring interactive exhibits, watching theater presentations or talking with rangers at the North Cascades National Park Visitor Center. The interpretive staff at the center present a wide variety of programs including evening programs at both Colonial Creek and Newhalem Creek campgrounds.



NPS



POPULAR TRAILS ALONG NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY					
Trail Name	Milepost	Round-Trip Distance in miles	Difficulty	Remarks	<i>*Obtain a permit at the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount for all backcountry camping.</i>
Sterling Munro	120	0.1 (0.2 km)	very easy	Accessible boardwalk with view of the Picket Range	
River Loop	120	1.8 (2.9 km)	easy	Accessible, forested path to the Skagit River	
Rock Shelter	120	0.3 (0.5 km)	easy	Accessible trail to historic site used by Native People 1,400 years ago	
Gorge Overlook	123	0.5 (0.8 km)	easy	Accessible trail with views of a deep gorge and waterfall	
Pyramid Lake	127	4.2 (6.8 km)	moderate	Moderately steep hike through diverse habitat leading to a lake, no camping	
Diablo Lake	128	7.6 (12.2 km)	moderate	Offers views of glaciers and peaks, located on north side of Diablo Lake	
Thunder Knob	130	3.6 (5.8 km)	easy	Hike through dry forest terrain, views of Diablo Lake and surrounding peaks	
Thunder Creek*	130	1.6-46 (2.8-74 km)	easy-difficult	Excellent day hikes, extended trips to Stehekin Valley via Park Creek Pass	
Thunder Woods	130	0.9 (1.5 km)	moderate	Nature trail that highlights the unique habitat near Thunder Creek	
Ross Dam	134	1.5 (2.4 km)	moderate	Short, steep trail down to Ross Dam	
Happy Panther	134	10.5 (16.9 km)	easy	Follows south shore of Ross Lake, connects Ross Dam Trail to East Bank Trail	
Happy Creek	134	0.3 (0.5 km)	very easy	Accessible boardwalk interpretive trail through ancient forest	
East Bank*	138	0.5-62 (0.8-99.8 km)	easy-moderate	Winds along forested path, loops around Desolation Peak to Hozomeen	

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area



Embrace the pioneer spirit and journey to the remote community of Stehekin, located on the northern shore of Lake Chelan. Nestled in a serene valley and surrounded by wilderness, Stehekin offers a variety of attractions to suit all visitors. Whether you are seeking a quiet weekend or want to challenge your muscles on rugged peaks, Stehekin and the surrounding trails have plenty of new sights to discover.



WHAT TO SEE, WHAT TO DO

The Historic Golden West Visitor Center: knowledgeable rangers can assist you with trail and camp conditions, backcountry permits, and general information. The visitor center also offers daily naturalist programs featuring natural and cultural history, including evening programs, short talks, guided walks, bicycle tours and Junior Ranger activities.

The Golden West Gallery: located in the visitor center, displays artwork inspired by the North Cascades.

Stehekin Pastry Company: no visit is complete without stopping by the bakery for a fresh, delicious treat.

Buckner Orchard: an intact example of early entrepreneurial farming in the Pacific Northwest and the only farm currently producing Common Delicious apples in the United States.

Hike: more than 11 trails varying in difficulty and length.

Camp: more than 13 campsites are available with locations on the lakeshore or deep in the wilderness.

LODGING

A variety of accommodations are available in Stehekin ranging from resorts to backcountry camping.

For a complete list of lodgings, services and schedules, consult the National Park website (www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/stehekin.htm) or call the Golden West Visitor Center (360) 854-7365 ext. 14.



TRAVELING TO STEHEKIN

Ferry

Lake Chelan Boat Company provides round-trip service between Chelan and Stehekin with scheduled stops at Field’s Point and Lucerne.

- Lady of the Lake II offers one daily round trip from May 1 through October 15.
- Lady Express offers one daily round trip from June 1 through September 30. From May 1 through May 31 & October 1 through October 15 one round-trip shuttle is offered Saturdays and Sundays only.

For up-to-date schedule and rates, regulations regarding transportation of freight and pets, or information regarding private charters visit www.LadyoftheLake.com or call (509) 682-4584.

On Foot or Horseback

For a wilderness adventure hike or horseback into the Stehekin Valley, multiple routes transverse the surrounding Wilderness areas. For trail conditions and trip planning, contact a ranger station.

Private Boat

There are over 16 public docks along Lake Chelan including four in the National Recreation Area. Boaters using any of these federal docks need a dock site pass from May 1 to October 31 (\$5 daily or \$40 for the season). This fee helps pay for maintenance costs. Passes can be obtained at the Chelan Ranger Station and from local vendors.

Float Plane

Chelan Airways offers daily flights during summer months. For more information or to schedule a flight visit www.chelanairways.com or call (509) 682-5555.



Learn more at: www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/stehekin.htm

Get Involved!



Volunteering in the National Park and Forest is an opportunity to give back to the resources and meet people with similar connections to the North Cascades. Participating in group work projects allows for a deeper understanding of the many issues related to management of public lands. No matter your skill level, a day spent combining friends, fun and stewardship is rewarding for all.

VOLUNTEER WITH NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

North Cascades National Park Complex partners with a variety of groups to organize volunteer work for trails, campgrounds and facilities maintenance. For information contact: Michael_Brondi@nps.gov

The Artist-in-Residence program offers artists a unique opportunity to live and work in the North Cascades. Each spring and fall an artist spends a month in either the Skagit or Stehekin valley gaining perspective from the surrounding wilderness and using their talents to inspire others.

Artists are selected by a panel of park staff and community members. Former artists include: photographer David Snyder; painters Alice Dubiel, Karen Lewis and Becky Fletcher; musician David Boye and sculptor Greg Pierce.

Applications are available by contacting Cindy_Bjorklund@nps.gov, or, for the Stehekin program contact Mark_Scherer@nps.gov. Learn more at: www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm

VOLUNTEER WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest works with several groups to help organize volunteers for trails and other restoration projects. Volunteer hours may help earn a Northwest Forest Pass.

Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (206) 517-3019 www.trailvolunteers.org	Backcountry Horseman www.bchw.org
Washington Trails Association (206) 625-1367 www.wta.org	Pacific Northwest Trail Association (360) 854-9415 www.pnt.org
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (360) 336-0172 www.skagitfisheries.org	Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (360) 715-0283 www.n-sea.org

MOUNTAIN STEWARDS

From late July through mid-September, Mountain Stewards assist with educational efforts along popular trails surrounding Mount Baker. These trails are well-traveled by day hikers looking for breathtaking vistas, as well as climbers attempting the summit of Mount Baker.

Mountain Stewards help teach the importance of “Leave No Trace”, a program encouraging people to reduce their impact on wilderness areas. The sheer number of feet on these trails leaves them vulnerable to damage and deterioration.

The Mountain Stewards program is an exciting way to become an advocate for the Mount Baker area. Participants need to be skilled in hiking and outdoor recreation, including snow travel, but are not required to travel on technical climbing routes.

Volunteers donate three trail days in addition to two days of training. Trail days take place during daytime hours, Friday through Sunday. If you are interested in becoming a Mountain Steward contact Barb Richey at the Mount Baker Ranger District (360) 856-5700.



A FEW KEY PARTNERS...

North Cascades Institute

North Cascades Institute offers a variety of hands-on programs, including Mountain School, a residential program for elementary, junior and high-school students from various school districts in western Washington. Other programs include summer youth adventures, family getaways, adult seminars and retreats, graduate studies and volunteer stewardship opportunities.

For more information about classes and programs call (360) 854-2599 or visit www.ncascades.org.

The Environmental Learning Center is located across Diablo Dam, near Sourdough Creek on the shores of Diablo Lake. NCI offers a variety of day and overnight field seminars at the ELC.

Washington’s National Park Fund

Every year millions of people visit Washington State’s spectacular national parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington’s National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money. The Fund helps to ensure visitors have high quality, memorable experiences by sponsoring educational, trail and wildlife projects. By securing funding from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation.

For information about how you can help Washington’s national parks, visit www.wnpf.org or call (206) 770-0627.

Student Conservation Association

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities to more than 3,000 people each year. SCA’s mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

For more information about opportunities with SCA in the Northwest, visit www.thesca.org or call (206) 324-4998.

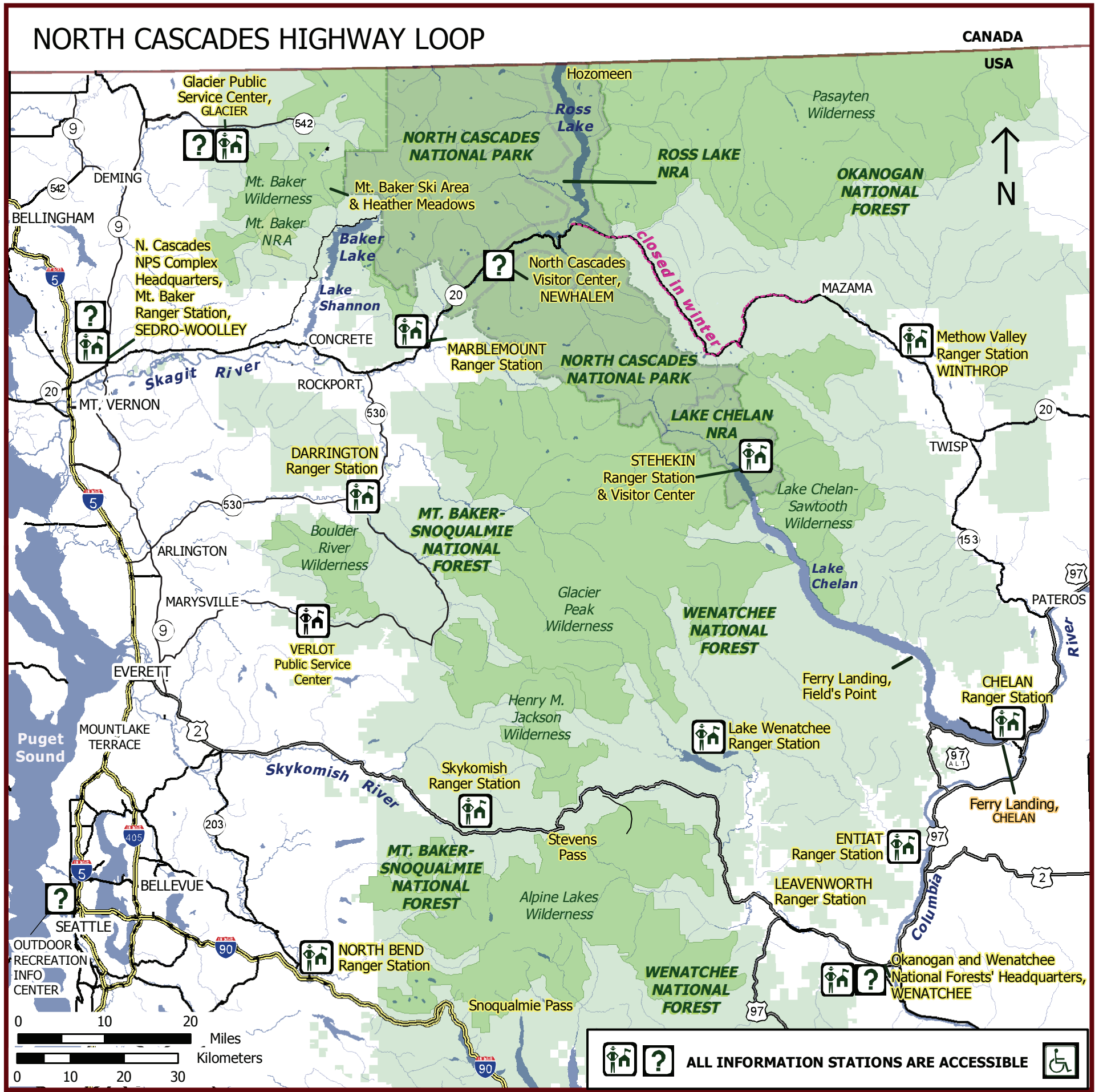
Seattle City Light

Seattle City Light has generated hydroelectric power on the Skagit River since 1918. Seattle City Light partners with North Cascades Institute and the National Park Service to offer the Skagit Tours during the summer. <http://www.seattle.gov/light/tours/skagit/>

National Forest Foundation

Bringing people together for public lands. www.nationalforests.org

NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY LOOP



**North Cascades National Park;
Mt. Baker Ranger District**
Park and Forest Information Center
SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Daily: 8 am to 4:30 pm
(360) 856-5700 ext. 515 (FS)
(360) 854-7200 (NPS)

**Wilderness Information Center
Backcountry Information/Permits**
MARBLEMOUNT

Friday to Saturday: 7 am to 8 pm
Sunday to Thursday: 7 am to 6 pm
(360) 854-7245

North Cascades Visitor Center
NEWHALEM
Daily May-October: 9 am to 5 pm
July & August: 9 am to 6 pm
(206) 386-4495

Golden West Visitor Center
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
STEHEKIN
Daily: 8:30 am to 5 pm
(360) 854-7365 ext. 14

Summer Hours ONLY
Call during other seasons

**Okanogan National Forest;
Methow Valley Ranger District**
Methow Valley Ranger Station
Monday through Friday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
(509) 996-4000

**Wenatchee National Forest
Chelan Ranger District**
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Monday to Friday: 7:45 am to 4:30 pm
(509) 682-4900 (NPS and FS)

Leavenworth Ranger District
Monday to Saturday: 7:45 am to 4:30 pm
(509) 548-6977

Lake Wenatchee Ranger District
Thursday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm
(509) 763-3103

**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest**
Headquarters - Everett - no visitor services
Supervisor's office: (425) 783-6000
1-800-627-0062 or TDD 1-800-272-1215

Glacier Public Service Center
Daily: 8 am to 4:30 pm, (360) 599-2714

Heather Meadows Visitor Center
July to September: 10 am to 4 pm
No phone, call Glacier Public Service Center

Darrington Ranger District
Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm
(360) 436-1155

Verlot Public Service Center
Daily: 8 am to 4:00 pm, (360) 691-7791

Skykomish Ranger District
Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm
(360) 677-2414

Snoqualmie Ranger District
North Bend Office
Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm
(425) 888-1421
Enumclaw Office
Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm
(360) 825-6585
Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center
Thursday to Monday: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
(425) 434-6111

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITES:

North Cascades National Park Complex www.nps.gov/noca
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest www.fs.usda.gov/mbs

The Visitor Information Guide is produced and published cooperatively by the North Cascades National Park Service Complex (USDI) and the Mt. Baker Ranger District of the Mt Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest (USDA). Writing and editing by Cindy Bjorklund (NPS), Debra Paul (USFS) and Michael Liang (NPS). Photographs from NPS, USFS, and others as credited. Maps from Anne Braaten (NPS) and Chuck Kitterman (Kulshan Cartographic Services). Printed July 2012.